

Town Administrator's Report February 26, 2013

The areas and issues on which we have worked over the last couple weeks – since the last Town Board Meeting – are as follows:

- Property Tax Exemption Legislation
- Resurrection of the Winter Transportation Committee
- Chequamegon Bay Engineering Matter
- Personnel Policy Revisions
- Smith Group JJR Final Report and Harbor Committee
- Army Corps of Engineers
- Penokee Mining Resolution – desirability and initial draft
- Continuing discussions about Big Bay Town Park
- Revenue Projects – Payback and Self-Sustenance of Big Bay Town Park
- Community Center Finance and Feasibility

We have arguably made progress on all fronts, most particularly:

Property Tax Exemption Legislation: We have maintained contact and communication with Rep. Bewley's office, even in the midst of the mining debacle, with respect to the development and introduction of legislation – patterned on the statutory ability to seek exemption from the property tax contribution to the county for a facility that is maintained and financed by the town. The a draft of the Property Tax Exemption Bill – referred to, in-house as, The Greg Nelson Memorial Property Tax Exemption Bill – has been received from Rep. Bewley – the Board has a copy. We are in the process of defining those elements that constitute 'Economic Development Activities' and reviewing the County budget to determine if there are any other line items that can be included in the bill. Rep. Bewley is/has been in contact with Sen. Jauch regarding sponsoring and introducing the companion bill in the Senate. We expect to have the edited/amended draft back to Rep. Bewley next week.

Winter Transportation Committee: After some months of correspondence, the Administrator met with Superintendent of Bayfield Schools, Dave Aslyn, to discuss the reinstatement and resurrection of the Winter Transportation Committee. Supt. Aslyn agreed that it is in the best interests of all parties to re-establish the committee and have it as the central pivot among the winter transportation constituent groups. The WTC will be reconstituted and have its first meeting in April – or as soon as the BSD Strategic Plan is completed.

Chequamegon Bay Engineering: Mike Fauerbach has been sifting through the mass of e-mails, correspondence and communication between the Town Depts and CBE. It is planned that Fauerbach will now draft a tight, compelling and persuasive letter to CBE which intimates that LaPointe may be amenable to settling the matter --- a settlement which includes CBE withdrawing its unfounded bill for \$55,000 and turning over CAD files --- in return, LaPointe will drop its demand for the return of \$20,000 of the fees already paid CBE. It is essentially, each walking away with what they have (save the CAD drawings).

Personnel Policy Revisions: With the important assistance of Tom Banner and Glenn Carlson, there is now a pretty clear path to revise and tighten the Personnel Policy and create an Employee Handbook that reflects the Town Administrator's position vis-à-vis all departments and personnel --- as well as the technical and mechanical employee information, processes and procedures/

Army Corps of Engineers: Followed up earlier assurances by the Corps that permits were to be issued this month. Chief Archeologist Brad Johnson reiterated that the permits (4-dock and BBTP) will be issued shortly – federal govt. bureaucracy having a different timetable than everyone else --- should we find ourselves saddled with sequestration, it would not delay issuance.

Community Center: Initial revenue possibilities have suggested that issues of design, purpose, location, etc., are now appropriate to address – TA has a comment and recommendation for a working group in this evening's agenda.

General Housekeeping and Administration: We are expecting the Flood Pump to arrive shortly, it was shipped last week – we were required to secure as import agent to ensure it passed customs --- we expect that a bill will be forthcoming which we will be discussing with Ross Industries. As usual, the Town Hall staff has been exceptionally efficient and professional ensuring bills are paid, documents delivered and the Primary Election was run efficiently, effectively and fairly.

Communications and Outreach: We continue to devote time, every day, to getting out in the community to talk with residents, business people and members of the Town Board to talk about issues, ideas, concerns and questions regarding existing or anticipated projects, programs and initiatives. We are dedicated to ensuring that public input, thoughts and ideas are factored into plans and initiatives, as well as, hearing thoughts and ideas with respect to those things that may be done better or that may make our Island a better and more productive place.